

# COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

## Jefferson Parish Project Nominee Fact Sheet

**Project Title:** North Barataria Bay Shoreline Wave Breaks

**Entity/Individual nominating the project:** Jefferson Parish, Louisiana

**Contact Information:** Marnie Winter, Director  
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**Total CIAP Funds Requested:** \$ 42,600,000

**Parish CIAP Funds Proposed:** \$ 0

**State CIAP Funds Requested:** \$ 42,600,000

**Infrastructure Funds Proposed:** N/A

**Description and Location of the Project:** The project stretches across the northern rim of Barataria Bay, from the northwest shore of Wilkerson Bayou, westward, across the northern lobes of the Bay and around St. Marys Point and then southwestward to the Barataria Bay Waterway.

This project proposes to construct a series of breakwater groins, at an elevation of between 3 and 4-foot MSL, constructed approximately 500 feet off the shoreline, so as to dissipate the forces induced by breaking waves. Each breakwater will be approximately 250 feet long, and adjacent groins will be spaced at 400 ft intervals, so as to provide 150 ft. gaps between the breakwater segments to allow for adequate levels of hydrologic exchange within the inland bays and channels. The project will limit tidal forces and wind-driven wave actions originating from the Gulf of Mexico and inland bays, assist in the retardation of saltwater migration, and improve retention of freshwater within the adjacent marshes north of the structures.

**Project Type:** Conservation, restoration and protection of coastal area, including wetland

**Project Justification:** The wetlands spanning the Barataria Basin north of Barataria Bay are hydrologically important because they serve to control the rate of both landward and seaward water flow. At present, Barataria Bay has almost completely converted to open water. As a result, wave fetch and elevated salinities have combined to exacerbate wetland loss along the north side of Barataria Bay by converting the marsh fringes to open water. Restoration of original area-wide hydrology and increased retention of freshwater in marsh areas north of the project would help conserve critical wetlands along the Barataria Land Bridge. The project will also help to provide storm surge protection to New Orleans, oil and gas infrastructure and the Barataria Bay Waterway.

The project is consistent with the following coastal restoration initiatives:

### COAST 2050: TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE COASTAL LOUISIANA:

#### *Coastwide Strategy:*

Maintenance of bay and lake shoreline integrity  
Stabilization of major navigation channels

Maintain or restore ridge functions  
*Regional Strategy:*

20. Construct wave absorbers at the heads of bays.

COASTAL IMPACT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CIAP):

Protect Critical infrastructure

**Project Cost Share:**      State = 0 %  
                                    Parish = 0 %